



Congresswoman Kaptur today announced a \$1.5 million federal award for the state of Ohio's first 'solar highway.' The project will help power the Veterans Glass City Skyway bridge over the Maumee River in Toledo.

The US Department of Transportation funds for the installation were included in the regular department budget, which requires 'pay as you go' budget rules, so as not to add to the deficit.

'Once again, our region is leading the way to energy independence and the creation of jobs in the alternative energy sector,' Congresswoman Kaptur said. She was joined at a news conference to announce the 'solar highway' by Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 2 Deputy Director David Dysard and officials from the University of Toledo.

Kaptur said the products in the solar array will be locally manufactured. 'That means jobs for our community,' she said, noting that the project will be constantly researched by the University of Toledo so that lessons learned can be applied to other infrastructure projects around the state and around the country.

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'Over time, the solar field will pay for itself, not only in jobs created and expertise gained locally, but also from the savings that ODOT will realize in the cost of lighting the bridge. This project is a bright, shining example of what we can accomplish when working together-federal, state, and local, public sector and private sector.

'With leading-edge technology, the Skyway will now help light the way to a new and brighter future for our regional economy.'

"This project is a great example of the expertise the University of Toledo and the UT Transportation Center can bring to the table as solar and alternative energy are increasingly integrated into transportation systems across the state and nation," UT President Lloyd Jacobs said in a statement.

Installation of the solar panels will begin this spring along I-280 south of Central Avenue and west of Galena Street. The solar array is expected to begin generating electricity by the end of the summer.